

# PROPOSITION 47

## OVERVIEW

Proposition 47 was a ballot initiative passed in November 2014 by 60% of California voters. The initiative aims to reduce incarceration for low-level crime and invest the subsequent savings into prevention and treatment.

Prop. 47 changed six of California's low-level, nonviolent offenses from potential felonies to misdemeanors: simple drug possession, shoplifting under \$950, writing or forging a check under \$950, and petty theft or receipt of stolen property under \$950.

It is estimated that 40,000 fewer people will be convicted of felonies each year in California due to Prop. 47, and up to 1 million or more individuals with past felonies on their record can change those to misdemeanors to remove legal barriers to jobs, housing education and more.

## IMPACT SO FAR ON INCARCERATION

California has experienced prison overcrowding for decades, leading to a federal mandate to reduce its prison population. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports that the state met a milestone in its reduction plan a year ahead of schedule after more than 2,000 individuals were resentenced and released under Prop. 47.

Meanwhile, 33 of California's 58 counties had overcrowded jails before Prop. 47 passed. On the county level, 33 of California's 58 counties had overcrowded jails before Prop. 47 passed, and most counties have seen reductions in their jail populations between 10 and 25% since then.

Visit [www.MyProp47.org](http://www.MyProp47.org) for more information.

## PROJECTED SAVINGS

In February 2015, California's independent Legislative Analysts' Office reported that the Governor's proposed budget reduced corrections spending by \$12.7 million because of Prop. 47, and that the law will save the state and counties more than \$100 million each year from reduced incarceration.

The law states that the savings will be invested the following ways:

- 65% for mental health and drug treatment (distributed by the Board of State and Community Corrections);
- 25% for K-12 school programs for at-risk youth (distributed by the California Department of Education); and
- 10% for trauma recovery services for crime victims (administered by the California Victims Compensation Program).

